

Greetings to Navy Medicine and a special thanks to everyone forward deployed, hope this finds everyone well! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Happy birthday to our Country marking 241 outstanding years! I'm currently sitting in the airport on my way the SG to see The DOD Warrior Games in Chicago, Illinois. What an exciting opportunity to visit with some heroes of our Nation!

Getting to work and to some very important topics! What's happening in the Hospital Corps, here it goes.

1. Next week marks the beginning of our new Hospital Corps "A" School curriculum. Special appreciation and 'Thank you' goes out to all of those who supported the developed this initiative. We anxiously look forward to the end product and the future sustainment of the Hospital Corps!

2. The HM and Basic Dental Assistant (BDA) PQS are in the final stages of development. The PQS Program will delineate the minimum knowledge, skills, and abilities Corpsmen must demonstrate before performing other duties. This will begin the establishment of a learning continuum to focus on higher level medical proficiencies in conjunction with Hospital Corpsman Skills Basic in the Hospital Corps. Thank you to HMCM Dell for your teams motivation and drive!

Some highlights to look forward too. Active Duty HMs and Full Time Support (FTS) HMs; (NEC 0000), shall complete the HM PQS within 12 months. BDA, NEC 8701, shall complete the BDA PQS within 12 months of reporting to their first assignment at a MTF. All SELRES HMs will complete the PQS within 36 months.

3. HM Clinical/Trauma 'Proof of Concept'. 16 OCT 17, there will be 30 Hospital Corpsmen (0000) sent to Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Clinical exposure and experience 'Proof of Concept' will consist of a 12-week period to provide students with clinical skills, competencies, and exposure to the clinical and trauma care environments prior to reporting to their first duty station. This initiative will support the maritime strategy and mitigate near-term risk; thank you to all the heavy lifts happening behind the scenes.

4. Health Services Operational Advisory Group. The group of leaders who represented the USMC operational side of our Navy Medicine team were phenomenal and are leading the way with their ideas and concepts.

5. 31 July marks the start of EMDP2 FY18 class. Many superb applications were reviewed by the selection board and competition was robust. Congratulations once again to those selected to participate this year. Those individuals selected shared the following common characteristics in their application packages as observed by the selection board:

- a. Met 100 percent of all submission requirements.
- b. High cumulative grade point average.
- c. Strong, authentic commanding officer endorsement.
- d. Compelling appraisal recommendations.
- e. Demonstrated sustained superior and academic performance in the classroom and on prerequisite standardized testing.
- f. Personal statement was well articulated.

6. In Remembrance:

HM2 Jaime Jaenke of Bay City, Wisconsin. HM2 Jaenke died as a result of enemy action when her HMMWV was struck by an improvised explosive device in Al Anbar province, Iraq. She was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. 6/05/06

HN Zachary M. Alday of Donalsonville, Georgia. HN Alday died from injuries sustained earlier in the day when the vehicle in which he was riding struck a land mine while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, 7th Regimental Combat Team, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Camp Pendleton, California. 6/09/06

HM2 Cesar O. Baez of Pomona, California. HM2 Baez died as a result of enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations in Al-Anbar Province, Iraq. Assigned to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). 6/15/05

HN Marc A. Retmier of Hemet California assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team, Sharana, in Afghanistan. Died of wounds sustained in a rocket attack in northern Paktika Province, Afghanistan. 6/18/08

HN William F. Ortega of Miami, FL. Died of wounds from an IED blast while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. HN Ortega was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1 Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. 6/18/10

HN Dustin K. Burnett of Fort Mohave, Arizona, died while conducting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Doc Burnett was assigned to First Marine Division Detachment, Twenty-nine Palms, California 6/20/08

HM1 (SEAL) Jeffery S. Taylor, ASADABAD, AFGHANISTAN. Taylor was killed when his helicopter was shot down as it was rushing to aid a stranded team member. He was serving with SEAL Team 10. 6/28/05

7. The following leaders will be going ashore within the next month:

No one is going ashore this month! Everyone decided to stay Navy!

8. Good luck to all those Sailors who are Board eligible! Quotas once again look good for our rate and we look forward to results. Another item is the Master Chief Board reconvening, good luck to those who are eligible!

9. Congratulations to those who were selected and frocked to Senior Chief Petty Officer, the Navy made more than 100 throughout our ranks. Look forward to your drive, determination and leadership for our Sailors.

I encourage everyone to be safe, spend time with family and reflect upon our service to the Nation this weekend.

In closing, challenge your Sailors each and every day, remain vigilant and ready for the fight ahead. Know this is the greatest PRIVILEGE to serve by your side and celebrate this 4<sup>th</sup> of July!